

Advisory Commission on the Environment
Minutes of Meeting
April 27, 2005

Commissioners Present: Rita Kornblum, Mark Mitchell, June Lyons, June O'Neil,
Robert Pandolfo

Commissioners Absent: Eddy Morales, Richard Parmalee, Jeanne Webb-Chavez

Commissioners Excused: Steven Hesse

Guests Present: Lori Brown and Christine Homa, CT League of Conservation Voters

Staff present: Nancy Noli

I. Call to Order

Dr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:50 and asked everyone to introduce himself or herself. Two guests were in attendance, Lori Brown, Executive Director and Christine Homa, Program Director of Ct League of Conservation Voters.

II. Minutes

February 2005 minutes were reviewed. June O'Neil made a motion to accept the minutes and Rita Kornblum seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The minutes of March 2005 were reviewed. Corrections were made as follows: At the end of the last paragraph under the "Old Business" section, a sentence was added to state, "June O'Neil agreed to help administer the surveys". Also, In the second sentence in the third paragraph under "State Legislative Agenda", the word "seems" was changed to "seem". Robert Pandolfo made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and June O'Neil seconded the motions. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Ct. League of Conservation Voters

Christine Home, Program Director, gave a short presentation describing her role as the political arm of the environmental group.

IV. Old Business

Kevin Hood was tentatively scheduled to give a presentation but was unable to attend.

Dr. Mitchell spoke on the UCONN Environmental Research Institute's study on the usage of incinerated ash as an additive to materials used for the subsurface base under roadways. This was done under a contract with the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. He stated that the ash was unusable due to its physical properties, but that

there may be other uses for ash. Ash contains high levels of toxins, therefore safety is a major concern.

A discussion was held regarding Dr. Painter's suggestions on use of plasma technology to reduce the ash landfill in north Hartford and the practicality of this proposal.

Dr. Mitchell discussed a news opportunity to discuss our work on the sewage treatment plant's use of chlorine gas, and our concerns about hazardous chemicals stored on trains that sit near residential areas along Windsor Street. A former Office of Homeland Security official will be testifying in Congress tomorrow on the unaddressed security threat of toxic chemicals unsecured on trains and stored at chemical manufacturers. Voluntary standards for security have been discussed but not widely adopted.

V. Follow up of recommendations to City for State Legislative Agenda

June Lyons was asked to create a local news article addressing the issue of chemical security in Hartford. Mark agreed to work with her on this.

VI. New Business

A suggestion was made for a June meeting at MDC at 5 p.m. to tour the chlorine tank area. Carl Veilleux will be requested to give the tour.

Rita Kornblum agreed to draft a letter to Katherine McCormack and John Shaw inviting them to the next scheduled meeting to discuss the City's emergency preparedness. Rita also agreed to draft a letter to address the status of inactive members (Commissioners). She also said she would check on getting a webpage for ACOTE.

VII. Announcements

State Department of Health will hold a public hearing on May 26th regarding mercury use in dental fillings. The legality of permitting use of mercury in fillings will be discussed.

A discussion was held regarding Keney Park and other urban parks being used more for environmental education.

The Downtown Circulator Bus service for downtown tourists will begin this summer. The circulators will be converted to hybrid diesel-electric buses. No capacity was mentioned, however they will be 30 ft long.

Rita reported that the Hartford Neighborhood Environmental Partnership's Earth Day fair was a great success. She staffed a table and administered the ACOTE questionnaires. World Asthma Day is May 3rd. There will be informational tables at the library.

Rita suggested having workshops to educate the public on recycling. Dr. Mitchell suggested cable TV presentations might reach more people.

The Commission was pleased to find out that Governor Rell named Elizabeth Horton Sheff to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.